

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 19-26 have been cancelled.

The above claim amendments correct minor informalities and typographical errors.

**35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103 Rejections**

Claims 19, 21, 23 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Saiki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,513). Claims 20, 22, 24 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saiki et al. et al. in view of Yasui (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,505). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's allegations made in rejecting the claims, Applicants hereby cancel existing claims 19-26 only to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, the rejections are moot and must be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and

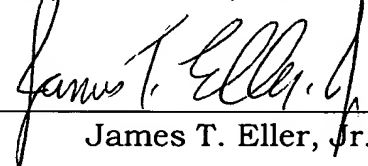
withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James T. Eller, Jr., #39,538

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22032-0747  
(703) 205-8000

  
JTE/EHC:lmh  
2950-0164P